

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

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CONYERS REJECTS CALLS FOR RESIGNATION OF JAMIE GORELICK FROM 9-11 COMMISSION

Congressman John Conyers, Jr., issued the following statement regarding recent calls for Jamie Gorelick to resign from the 9-11 Commission:

“I strongly oppose these partisan calls for Commissioner Gorelick to resign. The facts show that it was the Reagan Administration that set up the wall between intelligence and criminal investigations. Contrary to the Attorney General’s assertions, in 2002, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review stated that this wall has existed since the 1980’s.

“Moreover, there simply is no truth to the Attorney General’s statement that the 1995 memo hampered the Department. If he truly thought that the wall was created by Ms. Gorelick, he could have torn it down at anytime without coming to Congress. Yet, he came to Congress to ask for – and receive – a change in the law after September 11 to allow such sharing.

“Furthermore, other commissioners also may have conflicts but continue their term, including Fred Fielding, who served on the Bush-Cheney transition team and may have handpicked several of the Administration officials being interviewed. We should not begin on this partisan road of eliminating commissioners with potential conflicts.

“Finally, I am troubled that the Department worked to declassify this document only a few days before the Attorney General’s testimony. It appears the Department is willing and able to release information only on a politically-beneficial timeline.”

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